possession of valid visas.

(c) Our Mission and Air India officials were in regular contact with the stranded passengers during the period of their halt in Kuala Lumpur. No complaint of ill-treatment or humiliation was made to either of them.

Discrimination in payment of accident compensation to Hindus in Saudi Arabia

2457. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindus are discriminated against in awarding compensation in accident cases in Saudi Arabia;

(b) if *so*. What are the principles applied for awarding compensation in accident claims for different religious sects; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove such discrimination against Hindus and Indian citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The awarding of death compensation cases is governed under the provisions of the Shariat Law as implemented in Saudi Arabia. This provides for differentiated compensation according to religious allegiance.

(c) The matter was raised by the Indian delegation at Indo-Saudi Joint Commission Meeting held in Riyadh in December, 1994.

भारतीय प्रक्षेपास्त्रों के संबंध में एक अमरीकी रक्षा अधिकारी द्वारा व्यक्त विचार

2458. श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल:
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 29 दिसम्बर, 1994 के "दैनिक जागरण" में प्रकाशित उस समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें अमरीकी रक्षा विभाग में अंडर सेक्रेटरी श्री लिन डैविस ने भारतीय प्रक्षेपास्त्रों से खतरे तथा भारत को नाभिकीय कार्यक्रम त्याग देने की बात कही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस कथन पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और नाभिकीय कार्यक्रम पर सरकार की नीति क्या है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी): (क) जी हां।

(ख) सरकार ने बार-बार यह बात दोहराई है कि नाभिकीय ऊर्जा के शांतिपूर्ण प्रयोग के कार्यक्रमों पर अथवा देशीय मिसाइलों के विकास के कार्यक्रम पर भारत द्वारा कोई प्रतिबन्ध अथवा किसी प्रकार के एक पक्षीय उपाय स्वीकार करने का कोई प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

PM's Discussions with the British Foreign Secretary

2459. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the important points taken up for discussion by the PM in his talks with the British Foreign Secretary Mr. Douglas Hurd, during his recent visit to India;

(b) the salient points which emerged regarding Pakistan's involvement and abetment of terrorism in Kashmir and elsewhere; and

(c) whether Government have discerned any change in the British attitude towards the subversive, anti-Indian elements, finding shelter and protection in Pakistan, and if so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The principal subjects discussed during the call on PM by the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd on 7 January, 1995 included bilateral trade and economic relations. India's economic reform programme, Indo-Pak relations and Government's plans to hold elections in J&K.

(b) and (c) Mr. Hurd reiterated the UK's 3-point formula on J&K, which includes a call for the cessation of external support to violence in J&K. He further agreed that ensuring a threshold level of security was essential to holding elections in J&K and in this context the UK would continue to urge Pakistan to desist from support for militancy.

Setting up of an Economic Security Council at the U.N.

2460. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain suggestions for setting up of an Economic Security Council at the United Nations;

(b) whether these suggestions also include restructuring of various organisations to make them more representative;

(c) whether these suggestions were made in a Conference organised by the Parliamentarian's Forum for Human Development;

(d) whether Government propose to take up these suggestions with other foreign countries and at International forums thereafter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government is aware of suggestions^ made by some independent experts/prominent personalities for setting up an Economic Security Council at the UN. Some other suggestions for restructuring of various organisations have also been made. Goverment is of the view that any restructuring of UN bodies should be aimed at making them more representative and democratic.

(c) Government has seen reports of suggestions made by the Parliamentarian's Forum for Human Development on this subject.

(d) and (e) The suggestions for the setting up of an Economic Security Council do not presently constitute a formal proposal before the United Nations. The member States of UN have not so far engaged in any substantive discussions on this proposal for evolving a consensus.

March by Tibetan Refugees

2461. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tibetan refugees living in India had decided to undertake a long march from New Delhi to Lhasa on March 10, 1995; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for their march and whether Government are willing to take interestinterfere or to mediate to resolve the issues involved in their undertaking the said march?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports to the effect that organisers of the "Peace March" have dropped their plans to march to Lhasa. Government's view is that such issues are best settled by dialogue between the parties concerned.

South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement

2462. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN:- Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the prospects of launching the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) in the SAARC Summit to be held in New Delhi;